

George Edmund Milne (1900-1985)
Photographs, ca. 1930-1950
FB-74

Introduction

This collection is composed of some 480 photographs of amateur photographer and Barre, Vermont, banker George E. Milne (1900-1985). Milne's photographs are undated, but were probably taken in the period 1930-50. They show Vermont and southern United States and/or Caribbean subjects. The photographer's daughter, Margaret Milne Richey, gave the collection to the Vermont Historical Society in 2003 (ms. acc. no. 2003.6). The collection is stored in three flat archival boxes (1.5 linear feet).

Biographical Sketch

George E. Milne was born on October 15, 1900, the son of George B. and Caroline (Jones) Milne. His father was a founder of Boutwell, Milne and Varnum Quarry Company, now Rock of Ages, in Barre, Vermont. He graduated from Goddard Seminary in 1919 and from Yale University in 1924, with a BA in anthropology. In 1927 he received a MBA degree from Harvard Business School. He joined the board of directors of the Granite Savings Bank and Trust Company in 1927, and became its president in January 1956. He was appointed chairman of the board in 1973, a position he held until the time of his death on July 25, 1985.

Mr. Milne married Rachel Hollister on June 18, 1924. They had three children: Margaret E., John H., and George D. Milne. Mr. Milne was involved in many civic organizations in Barre and was remembered at the time of his death as a "civic-minded member of the community who never sought recognition for his many contributions to the city." In addition to his interest in photography, Mr. Milne also raised and bred champion beagles.

George Milne was a skilled amateur photographer. He entered many local photographic contests and exhibitions. His family has said that he did all of his darkroom work himself. Indeed, the family still had some darkroom equipment at the time they gave the photographs to the VHS.

Scope and Content

The subjects of Mr. Milne's photographs include animals, rural scenes, snow, and friends. His portraiture is a strength of the collection, showing his subjects in strong black and white tones, usually in a personal setting. For example, Governor George Aiken is shown working at his desk in the State House; Al Comi, a granite designer and artist is shown at his drafting table; and friend Ward Carver is shown fishing, with a cigar or pipe in his mouth.

The collection also includes over fifty photographs of a trip or trips that Mr. Milne took to the southern United States and/or the Bahamas. Many show palm trees, fishing villages, boats, and native peoples. None of the photographs are identified, but they show a real fondness on the part of the photographer for an unusual and exotic culture. Mr. Milne also appears to have visited the 1939 World's Fair in New York City; the collection includes eight photographs of the modern buildings of that exposition.

Mr. Milne's documentation of Vermont life is very generalized. The collection includes photographs of Vermont farmsteads, ponds and mountains; men fishing and hunting; and people playing golf, riding horses, and snow shoeing. There are two scenes of a house fire that make artistic use of the smoke coming out of the building. Many of the photographs use available light for dramatic effect.

All of the photographs in the collection are black and white; most of the photographs in the collection are in a large format: 11 x 14 or 8 x 10. Most of the photographs received by the VHS were mounted on matt board. Whenever possible, they were removed from their backings to save storage space and to ensure the longevity of the photographic print. The photographs, which were loosely arranged when they were received, have been sorted using the VHS's picture file subject headings.

Inventory

- FB-74.1:1 F-AG, farm scenes, rural life (8)
- 2 F-Air (1)
- 3 F-AN, birds, horse, frog, cats & dogs, otters, deer (30)
- 4 F-CEM (1)
- 5 F-Circus (4)
- 6 F-ENT (3)
- 7 F-EX – 1939 World's Fair (8)
- 8 F-FI (2)
- 9 F-Flowers (7)
- 10 F-HEA (1)
- 11 F-Houses (25)
- 12 F-Lakes (13)
- 13 F-Misc. (8)
- 14 F-Mou (5)
- 15 F-Music –Town Band (1)
- 16 F-PO – A-K (28)
 - Aiken, George
 - Allen, Sheldon
 - Blackmore, Beatrice
 - Blackmore, William (“Bill”)
 - Carver, J. Ward
 - Comi, Al
 - Dineen, Leslie
 - Jarvis, Dr. D. C.

- Jones, Alice
 Kelley, ?
 Kent, Malcom
 17 F-PO – M (11)
 Mann, Fran
 Milne, Carolyn Jones
 Milne, George
 Milne, John
 Milne, Margaret
 Murray, Bill
 18 F-PO – P-R (18)
 Parker, Helen
 Parker, Robert
 Pirie, Jim
 Reid, David
 Robertson, Nathalie
 FB- 74.2:1 F-PO S-W (28)
 Sector, James
 Shield, Waldron
 Small, Frank
 Smith, Roy
 Wishart, Charles
 2 F-PO – Children (27)
 3 F-PO – Men (26)
 4 F-PO – Women (9)
 5 F-PHO (3)
 6 F-RA (1)
 7 F-Roads (15)
 8 F-Scenery (15)
 9 F-Skills, sculpture – stone cutting, telephone operator (2)
 10 F-Snow (18)
 11 F-SO, square dancing (4)
 12 F-Southern Trip – horse racing (4)
 13 F-Southern Trip – portraits (8)
 FB-74.3:1 F-Southern Trip – Scenes:1 (25)
 2 F-Southern Trip – Scenes: 2 (19)
 3 F-Sports, basketball, croquet (3)
 4 F-SP – fishing (8)
 5 F-SP – golfing (6)
 6 F-SP – hunting, camping (10)
 7 F-SP – riding (6)
 8 F-SP – skiing (6)
 9 F-SP – other summer (football, horseshoes, sailing) (12)
 10 F-SP – other winter (sledding, snow shoeing) (8)
 11 F-TO – Barre (1)
 12 F-TO - Montpelier, State House (3)

- 13 F-TO – unidentified city (1)
- 14 F-TO – Washington, DC (6)
- 15 F-Trees (12)

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